

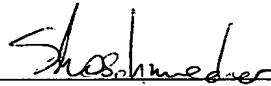
BASIS FOR THE AMENDMENT

Claims 13-31 are active in the present application. Claims 1-12 have been canceled. Claims 13-31 are new claims. Support for new Claims 13-26 and 29-31 is found in the original claims. Support for new Claim 27 is found on page 1, lines 2-5. Support for new Claim 28 is found on page 4, lines 8-15. Original independent Claim 1 has been rewritten as new independent Claim 13. The amendment for clarity is not intended to further limit the claimed subject matter. No new matter is added.

An action on the merits and allowance of claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



---

Richard L. Treanor  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 36,379

Customer Number

**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000

Fax: (703) 413 -2220

(OSMMN 06/04)

SUK/rac

I:\ATTY\SUK\278073US-PR.DOC

Stephan U. Koschmieder  
Registration No. 50,238